

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 53**  
**Asked on 15 February 2006**

MR SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to his recent visit to The Prince Charles Hospital where he launched the HeartKids Queensland calendar and supported the HeartKids families-

Will he provide information on the services provided by Queensland Health to those young Queenslanders suffering from congenital heart defects?

ANSWER:

The Prince Charles Hospital's Paediatric Cardiac Service has been established for over 30 years.

The service incorporates -

- Paediatric Cardiac Surgery;
- Paediatric Cardiology;
- Paediatric Intensive Care;
- Paediatric/High Dependency;
- A Paediatric Ward;
- Paediatric Outpatient Clinics;
- Cardiac Investigations Service;
- Nuclear Imaging Services; and
- Outreach clinics with medical staff conducting clinics in Tweed Heads, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Mackay, Mt Isa, Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton.

A number of significant enhancements have occurred within the service over the last twelve months including funding for –

- two additional Paediatric Registrars;
- five additional Paediatric Nurses in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit;
- one additional Nurse Educator for the Paediatric Service;
- one additional Paediatric/Electrophysiologist and Pacing Specialist;
- five additional nurses in the Paediatric Ward; and
- additional Allied Health staff to meet the clinical needs of patients including an increase in Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology and Psychology.

The present redevelopment plans for the Hospital also include –

- a new 14 bed Paediatric Ward;
- a new 9 bed Paediatric ICU/High Dependency Unit; and
- two new rooms for emergency overnight parent accommodation in the ward area.

The present area available for relative accommodation is currently being refurbished to include air-conditioning, new floor coverings and paint as well as the development of two family style rooms and HeartKids Inc is developing a parent support plan to assist the Paediatric team in providing a family centered model of care.

The HeartKids Queensland is an integral part of the service and provide support for families whose children are receiving treatment at The Prince Charles Hospital.

It was indeed a privilege to be present at the launch of the HeartKids Queensland's 2006 Calendar.